

MOUNTAIN PARK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



The Mountain Park Environmental Center (MPEC), founded in 1999, is dedicated to connecting People to the Planet by increasing the environmental literacy of children and adults. Located in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains, 25 miles south-west of Pueblo Colorado, MPEC serves as an experiential learning center offering science and health programs to the Pueblo School District and other public schools in the region – and to the whole community.

- MPEC works with nearly 2000 young people each year in full-day outdoor-based science and health programs and summer camps.
- MPEC also reaches over 2000 adults through guided hikes, workshops, and lectures
- MPEC programs have won two awards from Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education



In Progress. Currently, MPEC only offers day programs. But that is about to change. The City of Pueblo is letting MPEC take-over and renovate the Horseshoe Lodge, a 12,000 square foot depression-era (WPA and CCC) public summer camp located a short 5-minute hike from the current building. Phase 1 of the renovation is nearly complete and Phase 2 is fully designed.

Converting an historical summer camp to a year-round overnight facility is no small task in the snowy foothills of the Rockies. But that's exactly what MPEC is doing. Historical on the outside, innovative and green on the inside – the renovated and rejuvenated building will be ready for the 21st Century:

- Low-flow token-operated showers and state-of-the-art composting toilet to maximize limited on-site water resources
- Highly insulated walls and a future-ready hot water heating system to reduce heating needs



Ready for the Future – Today! MPEC is located in the middle of a ponderosa pine forest – a source of beauty and a source of renewable, sustainable energy. MPEC designed their new building to be Wood Ready.

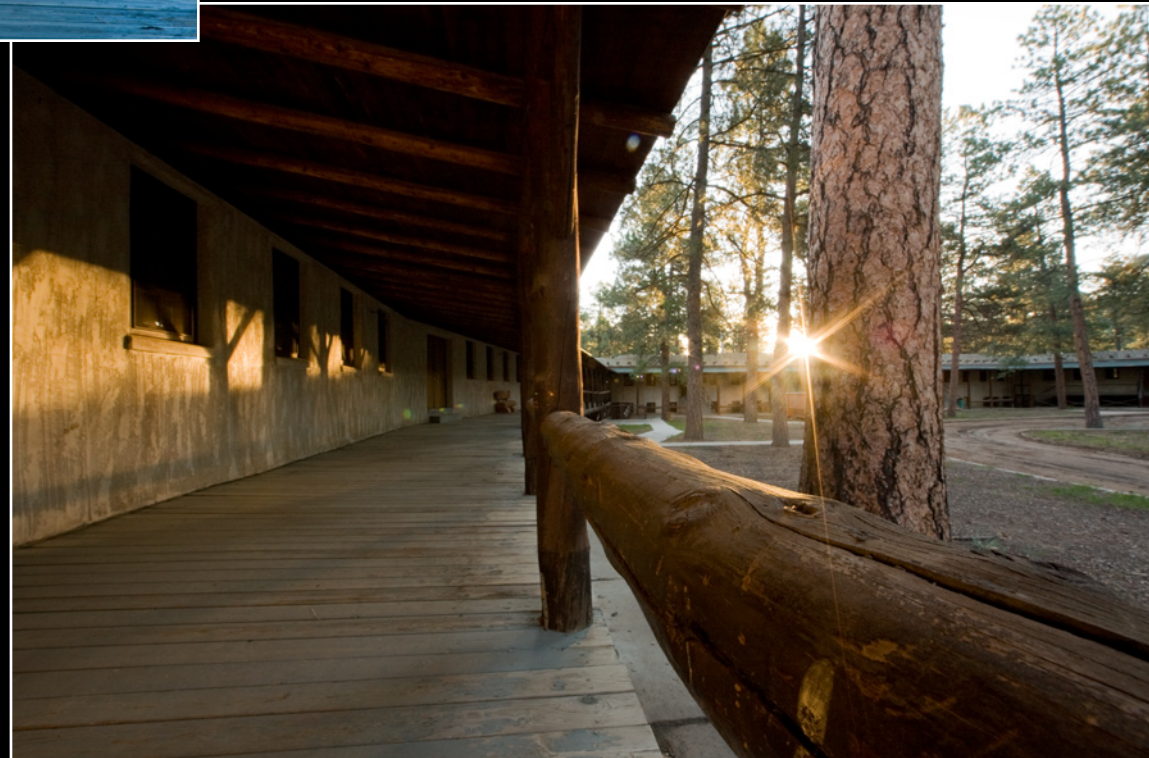
- An integral part of MPEC's mission and vision of connecting People to the Planet
- Manage first risks and improve local forest health
- Manage energy costs - freeing operating funds for mission-critical educational programs

The Colorado Governor's Energy Office funded the design of a clean and modern wood-fueled boiler. What's left? Your help. MPEC has the wood, the engineering plans, and the dream. All they need is a little help from you: a capital gift that will keep on giving.

YESTERDAY



Preserving the historical beauty of this Depression Era summer camp.



TOMORROW



State-of-the-art composting toilet will help reduce use of limited on-site water resources.



Insulated walls are being added inside the adobe building to preserve the historical exterior and make this summer camp ready for cold winters.

A wood-fired boiler like this one will soon heat the building in the winter and make hot water year-round for showers and the cafeteria.



Dave Van Manen. The man behind the dream, founded MPEC in 1999 to help connect People to the Planet through environmental education.

